(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following schemes are in progress or are being taken up which will increase the length of rail route in the North Eastern States:

1.	New line between Dudhnoi-Depa	: 15.5 Kms.
2.	New line between Jogighopa-Guwahati	: 142 Kms.
3.	New line between Kumarghat-Agartala	: 119 Kms.
4.	New line between Harmuti-Itanagar	: 33 Kms.
5.	New line between Diphu-Karong	: 123 Kms.
6.	Bridge at Bogibeel with traks on both sides to existing railway line	: 46 Kms
7.	Gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar	: 198 Kms.
8.	Gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	: 276 Kms.

Import of Wheat and agencies authorised to import and procedure adopted

*491. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imported wheat in 1996-97, if so, the total quantity thereof;

(b) the agencies authorised to import and the procedure adopted therefor;

(c) whether any global tender was issued for the import;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the price was negotiated with the firms before finalising the contract; and

(f) whether the price paid was higher than the price in the international market during that period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. In December, 1996 Government had decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 and a quantity of 16.75 lakh tonnes was contracted for import during January, 97 to April, 97. Against this a quantity of 9.96 lakh MT arrived at Indian Ports upto 31st March, 1997. The balance quantity is expected to arrive by 15th May, 1997.

(b) to (d) The State Trading Corporation of India has been authorised by the Government to import wheat. The purchases have been made against tenders floated amongst leading foreign traders. Contracting has been done by STC after inviting tenders from International Grain Traders including publication in Indian Newspapers at times. The STC had floated tenders on 6.12.96, 11.12.96, 20.1.97, 24.2,97 and 17.3.97.

(e) and (f) Before finalising purchases the prices were negotiated with the tenderers. The prices at which the deals were finalised were quite competitive vis-a-vis prevailing international prices. A statement showing the price offered, contract price and the prevailing international prices as on the date of contracting is annexed.

Statement

List showing the price offered, contract price and the prevailing international prices

Date of contract	Source	Price offered (US $ PMT)	Contract price (US $ PMT)	Prices in International market as on date of contracting (US $ PMT)#
10.12.96	Australia	156.00	148.00 FOB @	204.00 FOB* & 205.00 FOB
11.12.96	Canada	156.00	152.50 FOB	191.00**FOB PACIFIC
31.01.97	Australia	156.00	156.00 FOB	205.00 FOB
4.02.97	Argentina	173.00	173.00 C&F	142.00 FOB
14.2.97	Australia	156.00	156.00 FOB	199.50 FOB

*FOB East Cost Australia
**For 2 CWRS (Canada Western Red Spring—Grade 2)
@ Plus premium for higher grades,
#These are the quoted prices as per Reuters News Service. However, actual transaction take place at lower than these prices.

Colleges in Andhra Pradesh

*492. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the number of Engineering colleges and Medical colleges, State-wise;

(b) whether any proposals are pending from Government of Andhra Pradesh for opening of Engineering and Medical colleges;

(c) if so, the reasons for the pendency; and

(d) the time by which they will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (d) The number of Engineering and Medical Colleges State-wise is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below). The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has received proposals for establishment of 84 new Engineering Colleges in Andhra Pradesh. The Medical Council of India has received proposals for opening of three new Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh. Such proposals are processed by these statutory bodies in accordance with the prescribed procedures. Final clearance depends on the proposals fulfilling all the conditions as per the rules notified in this regard.

Statement

Opening of Engineering and Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh

States/UTs	No. of Engg. Colleges	No. of Medical Colleges
1. Andhra Pradesh	34	10
2. Andaman & Nicobar	1	—
3. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
4. Assam	3	3